

who work on our nation's farms deserve much credit for helping to make our lands productive.

Through the arduous process of working and cultivating the soil, these farmworkers help prepare the ground, plant the crops, and harvest the food we need to live. The life of a farmworker is a tough lifestyle. Like the farmer, the farmworker must endure the ever-changing seasons from the harshest winters to the sun-drying, waterless droughts to rain-soaked days that lead to disastrous floods. Farmworkers watch the fields as thunderous storms race across them damaging the crops from which they make their living. However, through it all, farmworkers continue to the fields to do their work.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture is vitally important to the Fifth District of Ohio as we are home to nineteen percent of all of Ohio's farmland. We know that the economy of our part of Ohio depends on farming and a big factor in our prosperity is due to the tireless efforts of farmworkers who bring in the crops. I can think of no better way to celebrate the contributions of these individuals than to take part in Farmworker Appreciation Day.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to farmworkers by helping me to proclaim August 3, 2002, as Farmworker Appreciation Day. We thank them for all they have done and wish them the very best for the future.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FLIGHT 93
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ACT (H.R.
3917) AND THE TRUE AMERICAN
HEROES ACT (H.R. 5138)

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Flight 93 National Memorial Act, H.R. 3917; and the True American Heroes Act, H.R. 5138. These two pieces of legislation will serve as the first steps toward finalizing a tribute to our nation's citizens whom, on September 11, 2001, represented the true American spirit through their heroic efforts.

No one will ever forget the events of September 11, 2001 that devastated our nation. Three of the four planes hijacked that unforgettable morning crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, leaving thousands dead.

Many believe terrorists were going to use the fourth plane as a weapon to crash into the United States Capitol Building. But the passengers and flight crew made the decision to take down the plane that morning in Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania after learning from cellular phone conversations with loved ones of the fates of the three other hijacked aircraft. As a result, countless innocent lives were saved, including our own, and the fate of our nation's Capitol was changed.

This was the ultimate act of bravery and sacrifice from the passengers and crew of United Flight 93, and those who enter our nation's Capitol each day should cherish their valiance.

Several residents of California, including two of my own constituents—Tom Burnett and

Hilda Marcin—were on United Flight 93. Citizens around the country have asked for the United States government to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of these passengers and the others that perished in these tragic events, by awarding a gold medal to a representative on their behalf.

The Congressional Gold Medal is considered the nation's highest civilian award given by Congress to recognize a lifetime contribution or a singular achievement. I believe that everyone on United Flight 93, as well as police officers, emergency workers and other employees at the Pentagon and World Trade Center should be recognized for their efforts and sacrifice to save the lives of so many others. I would like to see all of these extraordinary individuals commemorated for such bravery. This medal is the least we can do in Congress to remember the courage of our fellow citizens.

In the months following the horrific attacks, thousands of people from around the world have remembered the final moments of the heroes of Flight 93 at the crash site itself, in Stonycreek Township, Pennsylvania. Serving as a place where families and friends of the passengers and flight crew can grieve for their loved ones, the symbolism of this area will be etched in the memories of those who visit to pay their tributes. Like Pearl Harbor, Oklahoma City, New York City and Washington, this is another piece of U.S. soil that now bears the markings of our nation's history.

It is time that we ensure protection of the site by placing it under jurisdiction of the National Park System, so that an appropriate memorial can be created, following the recommendations of the Flight 93 Task Force.

There may never be answers for all the questions that surround the events of September 11, 2001 or closure for all of those around the world who suffered the loss of loved ones in this tragedy.

But it is in our power to make sure that we appropriately honor our fellow Americans, who not only saved our lives and so many others, but also protected our nation's symbol of democracy and freedom—our United States Capitol—by passing these landmark pieces of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support these two bills and yield back the balance of my time.

SPECIAL ORDER ON CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus to mark the 28th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. I thank Mrs. Maloney and Mr. Bilirakis for their ongoing leadership in the Hellenic Caucus and for organizing events such as today's, which draw much-needed attention to issues of importance to the Hellenic community.

Two days from now will be the 28th anniversary of the invasion. On July 20, 1974, Turkish troops seized control of northern Cyprus, establishing an occupation that exists to this day. The invasion and occupation caused the deaths of 5,000 Cypriots and the expulsion of

200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes. To add insult to injury, Turkey promoted an independence declaration in the controlled area, drawing the condemnation of the United States and the United Nations Security Council.

Our Nation's top foreign policy priorities must include the reunification of Cyprus. One of my first acts as a Member of Congress was to join many of my colleagues in sending a letter to President Bush requesting that his administration immediately address this matter and work toward a peaceful solution. The United States holds a unique position of trust with both Greece and Turkey, and must use its influence to encourage the Turkish-Cypriots to continue negotiations, so that Cyprus may once again be whole.

This year, the United Nations has redoubled its efforts to encourage unification negotiations between the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriots, with Secretary General Kofi Aman visiting the island in May to meet with government leaders. Unfortunately, LTN negotiators, as well as other international observers, have noted that Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash has shown little interest in negotiating a settlement, while noting that Cypriot President Glafcos Clenides has shown far more flexibility. The United States must remain engaged in negotiations in Cyprus to promote a lasting settlement to this ongoing problem.

Cyprus, like the United States, shares a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the concept of equal justice under the law. The nation's economic growth and high standard of living make it a prime candidate for membership in the European Union. I am a proud cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 164, which supports the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, as it would greatly contribute to the diversity and shared history of the EU. Membership would provide Cyprus with greater opportunities to contribute to the international community and could also serve as a catalyst for settlement of the unification problem.

On this important anniversary, we mourn those who lost their lives in the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. However, we can also look forward to a time when Cyprus is again unified and able to reach its fullest potential in the international arena. The United States has stood beside her in the past, and we will undoubtedly maintain this strong relationship for years to come.

Again, I thank my colleagues on the Hellenic Caucus for addressing this important matter, and I yield back the balance of my time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on July 16, 2002, I was unavoidably absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes numbered 299 through 308. For the record, had I been present I would have voted yea on rollcall votes 299, 300, 301, 302, 304, 306, and 308, and I would have voted nay on rollcall votes 303, 305, and 307.